




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Leader of the Opposition, Performance

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Investment) (2.10 pm): Everyone in Queensland knows that the Leader of the Opposition is failing in his job—that is, if they actually know who he is! Like Scott Morrison, his LNP counterpart in Canberra, the Leader of the Opposition has been weighed up and has been found wanting.

As we heard today in question time, the Leader of the Opposition cannot get his lines straight on the Queensland border. In fairness, it does take a lot of effort to execute a U-turn after passing 64 signs that say, 'Wrong way, go back.' Rather than turning the LNP around, its leader is accelerating through their self-made border chaos at breakneck speed.

You would have thought that, after the LNP comprehensively tied itself in knots over the borders throughout 2020 all the way through to and including the 2020 state election, the member for Broadwater might have sorted it out. You would have thought that the Leader of the Opposition would have applied himself to getting his story straight, but he could not. That is because the LNP are absolutely obsessed with 'opening up'.

Remember that just three months into his job the member for Broadwater was already puffing himself up in the media. Do you remember that, Madam Deputy Speaker? In a piece that ran in the *Courier-Mail* on the Valentine's Day weekend—in a love letter to himself—the Leader of the Opposition announced, 'I believe I will be Premier ... and I will win big.' The only thing the member for Broadwater did not say was how humble he was!

Seven months later, let us check in on how the Leader of the Opposition has racked up the big wins for the LNP. Let us do a progress check on the electoral performance of the LNP under the member for Broadwater. Just how big did the Leader of the Opposition win at his very first electoral test—the Stretton by-election? It was a complete failure. It was a total debacle. Not only did the Leader of the Opposition steer the LNP to a loss in the Stretton by-election; the loss was so bad that it set a new record—the worst swing achieved under any opposition leader in a government-held seat in Queensland recorded in over two decades.

Labor's triumph in Stretton was also due to a first-class campaign and the first-class candidate we ran—James Martin, who is in the House this afternoon. That is because the member for Stretton is connected to his community. James Martin is a credit to his community. Importantly, Queenslanders actually know who he is. The contrast between the new member for Stretton and the Leader of the Opposition could not be starker.

It is hard to overstate just how badly the LNP performed under the newly minted Leader of the Opposition. Even a by-election under the LNP leadership of Jeff Seeney got better results than the LNP did under its current leader—Jeff Seeney, who was so unloved, so unpalatable to the Queensland

public, that the LNP sacked him before he could contest the 2009 election. Do not take my word for it. Writing in *InQueensland*, Dennis Atkins reported that the Leader of the Opposition might 'talk it up, but the Stretton by-election was a stinker, any way you look at it'. Never has a truer word been written.

My message to the Leader of the Opposition is: you better look out! Look out for all of those champions on the backbench and the front bench who are all getting ready to take the job. Look out for the member for Whitsunday—a clean-cut, new candidate, looking good, connected to her community. Watch out for the member for Everton. I do not know how many times he has challenged for the leadership—two, three, four, five, six—who would know, but he still has the field marshal's baton in the knapsack. The member for Everton is ready to go when he needs to.

There was a whole week when the LNP candidate in the Stretton by-election did not even post anything on social media—in a by-election! The bloke was not doing anything. This was the hand-picked candidate by the Leader of the Opposition. All of the inappropriate social media posts by the LNP candidate for Stretton were absolutely there for the entire world to see. They could not even do due diligence on an LNP candidate. They could not even do that. They could not even get the right candidate for the right community. This speaks volumes to the lack of leadership under the LNP. This speaks volumes—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr DICK: As if the member for Nanango would interject on leadership, Madam Deputy Speaker, but I tell you what: the member for Broadwater is making the member for Nanango look like a genius!

(Time expired)